

For Immediate Release March 25, 2011

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Saint Paul Turns Off the Lights for Earth Hour

City will join county and state for global environmental movement March 26th from 8:30 to 9:30 pm

SAINT PAUL – In an effort to promote energy conservation, Saint Paul will join cities across the world for Earth Hour 2011 by going dark. A global movement that encourages individuals, businesses and governments to take positive steps toward sustainability, Earth Hour will take place Saturday, March 26 between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. For that hour, buildings throughout Saint Paul will turn off their lights, raising awareness about the importance of reducing energy consumption and green house gas emissions.

"Saint Paul's commitment to sustainability can be seen in every corner of our city. From our new electric vehicles to the District Energy St. Paul solar thermal installation atop the Saint Paul RiverCentre, Saint Paul has become a national leader in energy conservation and sustainability. On Saturday, we will join with cities from all over the world to highlight the importance of preserving our most critical resource: the environment," Mayor Chris Coleman said.

Places participating in Earth Hour 2011 include the State Capitol, Saint Paul City Hall and Ramsey County Court House, the Landmark Center, Saint Paul Central Library, James J. Hill Reference Library, Metropolitan State University New Main, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Jemne Building (Wold Architects and Engineers), and Rice Park. Residents of Saint Paul, businesses, houses of worship, and others are also encouraged to participate by turning off non-essential lights for the hour.

The success of Earth Hour will not be measured by the number of buildings that participate or the kilowatts conserved during those 60 minutes. Instead, Earth Hour is intended to raise awareness and inspire people to go "beyond the hour" and make energy saving changes in their daily lives. To that end, the city has created a web page with information and resources to help residents, businesses and others save energy every day.

Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007. That year, more than two million individuals and two thousand businesses turned off their lights for one hour to take a stand on climate change. Since then, Earth Hour has gone worldwide, with hundreds of millions of people in more than 100 nations taking part each year.

For more information, visit www.stpaul.gov/earthhour and www.earthhour.org.